

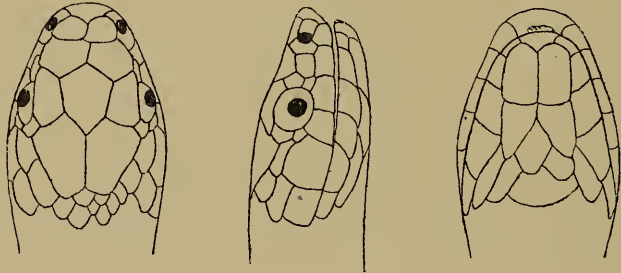
## SOME NEW SNAKES FROM THE ORIENTAL REGION.

By

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*Oligodon evansi*, spec. nov.—In the year 1902 shortly after leaving Burma, Major (now Colonel) G. H. Evans sent me the detailed notes of a snake from Thandoung, Toungoo District (S. Shan States), which he was unable to identify. I wrote to him in reply that it was certainly a species of *Oligodon* or *Simotes* not known to science. When my collections were sent on to me, this specimen was not forthcoming, and Colonel Evans was never able to trace what became of it. I was much interested therefore after the lapse of 11 years to have a snake sent to me by the keeper of the Society's Museum, collected at Taounggyi (S. Shan States) which exactly tallies with Colonel Evans' description which I have kept by me, and have frequently referred to when new species of the genera *Oligodon* and *Simotes* have been announced.

I propose to call the species *Oligodon evansi*, which may be described thus:—Length— $13\frac{1}{4}$  inches, tail  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches. *Rostral*—Touches 6 shields, the rostro-nasal, and rostro-internasal sutures subequal, greater than rostro-labial. *Internasals*.—Two, the suture between them  $\frac{3}{4}$  that between the præfrontal fellows,  $\frac{2}{3}$  the internaso-præfrontal; *Præfrontals*—Two, suture between them  $\frac{2}{3}$  the præfronto-frontal; in contact with the internasal, postnasal, loreal, præocular, and supraocular. *Frontal*—Touches six shields, the sutures subequal. *Supraoculars*—Length  $\frac{2}{3}$  frontal, breadth  $\frac{1}{2}$  frontal. *Nasals*—Two, in contact with the 1st and 2nd supralabials. *Loreal*—One, longer than high, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the nasals. *Præocular*—One. *Postoculars*—Two. *Temporal*—One, in contact with the 5th supralabial only. *Supralabials*—Six, the third and fourth touching the eye, the fifth much the longest. *Infralabials*—Four,



*Oligodon evansi*. ( $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$ )

fourth largest, third and fourth touching the posterior sublinguals. *Sublinguals*—Two pairs. *Ventrals*—131. *Anal*—Entire. *Subcaudals*—19, divided. *Costals*—Two heads lengths behind the head 15, midbody 15, two heads lengths before the vent 15.

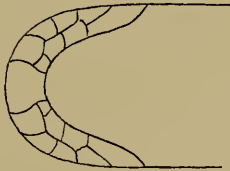
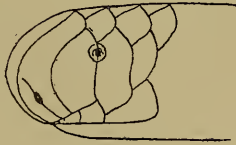
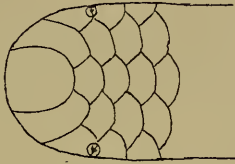
*Colour*—Deep olive-green dorsally, with black mottling forming indistinct cross-bars posteriorly. Some variegation formed by short linear gamboge edges to some scales. A broad, black, well defined saggitate mark on the nape. Head almost uniform dark olive, the labial sutures black on both lips. Belly yellow with elongate, transverse, black marks reaching to the middle line, often on alternate or on two successive ventrals.

The shortness of the tail is one very noticeable feature. Colonel Evans' specimen measured  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches, the tail accounting for  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The ventrals numbered 140, and the subcaudals 24 (25?). A row of dark dorsal spots were present along each side. In other respects the two specimens completely agree.

*Typhlops venningi*, spec. nov.—Among other interesting snakes from Burma lately received from Captain F. E. W. Venning is a blind snake of the family *Typhlopidae* which is new to science. I propose to associate the discoverer's name (*viz.* Mrs. Venning) with these specimens (two) which have been lodged in the British Museum.

*Habitat*—Pyawbwe, Upper Burma circa 700 feet.

*Description*.—*Rostral*—About half the width of the head above. *Pre-frontal*, *frontal*, and *interparietal* subequal, rather larger than the body scales. *Supraocular*—About as broad as the preceding. *Anterior parietal*—Broader than the supraocular. *Nasals*—Not meeting behind rostral. Not completely divided, the suture above the nostril failing to meet the rostral. The suture below the nostril passes to the 2nd labial. *Præocular*—Touches



*Typhlops venningi* (x. circa  $\frac{8}{7}$ )

the 2nd and 3rd of the labial series. *Ocular* as large as the præocular, in contact with the 3rd and 4th labials. *Temporal*—One. *Labials*—Four. *Scales* in 18 rows in the whole body length.

Eyes fairly distinct, beneath the præocular, and ocular shields. Nostril latero-inferior. Snout rounded. Tail ending in an obtuse cone. Length  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Breadth about one fifty-sixth to one sixty-fourth the total length.

*Colour*.—Dark purplish-brown dorsally, lighter beneath. A white spot on the anal region, and at the tip of the tail.

*Distira cyanosoma*, spec. nov.—Among a small collection of snakes sent to me last year from the Philippine Islands, by Dr. Griffin was a marine specimen which I have made the type of a new species, incorporating it provisionally with the genus *Distira*. I have presented it to our National Museum at S. Kensington.

*Description*.—*Rostral*—Broader than high; in contact with 4 shields. *Nasals*—in contact with the fellow of the opposite side; suture from the nostril passes to the 2nd supralabial. *Præfrontals*—a pair; in contact with the 2nd supralabial. *Frontal*—Touches 6 shields, the fronto-parietal sutures rather the longest. *Parietals*—Entire. *Præocular*—One. *Postoculars*—Two. *Temporals*.—Two on the right side, three on the left; longer than high. *Supralabials*—Eight; the third and fourth touching the eye, sixth and seventh small, the eighth elongate. *Sublinguals*—Two pairs, subequal; the posterior quite separated by small scales. *Infralabials*—Four, the fourth largest; a cuneate scale wedged in between the third and fourth. *Costals*—Two heads lengths behind the head 33, midbody 37, two heads lengths before the anus 35, subimbricate, faintly tuberculate. *Ventrals*—213 ♀, enlarged, entire, not quite twice the breadth of the last row.

*Colour*.—Uniformly bluish, deeper dorsally, paler costally, and ventrally.

It bears a pronounced superficial resemblance to *Enhydrina valakadyn*. (Boie).